

Report

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

■ 1.0 Site Description

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (NHS), located in Cornish, New Hampshire near the Vermont Border, consists of 150 acres including the home, gardens and studios of Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), one of America's foremost sculptors. This was his summer residence from 1885-1897, and his permanent home from 1900 until his death in 1907. There are two hiking trails that explore the park's natural areas.

■ 2.0 Existing ATS

At present, access to the site is by automobile. No public transit services are available, although the nearest urbanized area, White River Junction, Vermont and Hanover/Lebanon, New Hampshire, have private motor coach bus service. Parking is provided both adjacent to the homestead and in an overflow grass parking area.

■ 3.0 ATS Needs

There is the desire to explore opportunities to fully remove modern-day influences from the area adjacent to the home and studios of the artist. This would require the addition of alternative parking. A site has been identified on the opposite side of the main road serving the area, Route 12A. Locating this lot on the other side of the road would result in a relatively long (more than one-quarter mile) and uphill walk to the site. If implemented, a shuttle operation to bring people to the site would likely be needed.

In addition to the new parking concept, managers of the site would also like to see enhanced signage to direct visitors to the site from Interstate 89. They have had limited success in coordinating this with state officials and wish to both enhance awareness as well as access.

■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

Although the Alternative Transportation Systems (ATS) needs for Saint-Gaudens NHS are fairly limited, if programming resources become available to remove modern-day influences from the original house and studio area, some form of people mover would be desirable. This would enhance the visitor experience once at the site. If the improvements are implemented without a transit solution, the extra walk to the site could lead to some visitor inconvenience.

■ 5.0 Person Interviewed

Greg Schwarz